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Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6321

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 7919

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CY, GR, TU
SUBJ: GREEK REQUEST FOR BHUTTO'S MEDIATION

1. PRIME MINISTER TELEPHONED ME THIS EVENING AND ASKED THAT I COME AND SEE HIM RIGHT AWAY. WHEN I ARRIVED, HE TOLD ME HE HAD RECEIVED A PHONE CALL YESTERDAY (1500 HOURS PAKISTAN TIME) FROM ATHENS FROM AN OLD GREEK FRIEND (HE DID NOT MENTION HIS NAME) WHO WAS ALSO A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF GREEK PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS. HIS FRIEND SAID HE WAS CALLING ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE TO ASK BHUTTO'S HELP IN BROKERING THE CURRENT PROBLEM BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. ALTHOUGH FRIEND DID NOT SAY SO, BHUTTO HAD STRONG IMPRESSION KARAMANLIS WAS CLOSE AT HAND. BHUTTO SAID HE REPLIED HE DID NOT SEE WHAT HE COULD DO BUT PROMISED TO THINK IT OVER AND CALL BACK. HE TOLD ME THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS MOST RELUCTANT TO GET INVOLVED, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE FELT OBLIGED TO MAKE SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE. HE ALSO DECIDED TO INFORM THE TURKS. HE SAID HE INSTRUCTED HIS AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL LEVEL TO REPORT VERBATIM THE UNOFFICIAL REQUEST HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE GREEKS FOR HIS ASSISTANCE.

2. THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER WHO APPARENTLY WAS QUICKLY
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BROUGHT INTO THE PICTURE TOLD THE PAK AMBASSADOR THAT

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ALTHOUGH THE TURKS COULD NOW OCCUPY THE ENTIRE ISLAND
OF CYPRUS THEY WERE NOT SEEKING ANNEXATION. HE ALSO
SAID THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME BHUTTO'S
MEDIATION AND WERE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE GREEKS
AT ANY PLACE AND AT ANY TIME. HE ASKED THAT BHUTTO
ASSURE KARAMANLIS THAT THEY WERE SEEKING A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION.

3. THAT SAME EVENING BHUTTO TELEPHONED HIS FRIEND IN
ATHENS AND TOLD HIM HE HAD INFORMED THE TURKS ABOUT THE
GREEK REQUEST AND ASKED WHAT THEY PROPOSED TO DO NEXT.
HIS FRIEND REPLIED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THEIR EXCHANGES
WITH KARAMANLIS AND THAT THE LATTER WAS MOST GRATEFUL
FOR BHUTTO'S HELP. HE HAS REQUESTED THAT FOR THE TIME
BEING THEIR EXCHANGES BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL BECAUSE
YOU ARE NOW INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND UNTIL THESE
EFFORTS WERE COMPLETED HIS REQUEST FOR BHUTTO'S
ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. BHUTTO TOLD
ME AT THAT POINT HE WAS RELUCTANT TO PURSUE THE MATTER
FURTHER UNTIL HE HAD TOUCHED BASE WITH US. HE EMPHASIZED
AGAIN THAT HE PREFERRED NOT TO GET INVOLVED AND CERTAINLY
WANTED TO AVOID DOING ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT JEOPARDIZE
YOUR EFFORTS. THIS IS PRETTY MUCH WHERE THE MATTER STANDS.
4. I TOLD BHUTTO I VERY MUCH APPRECIATED HIS INFORMING
ME ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GREEKS AND THE TUKS
AND THAT I WOULD REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON
IMMEDIATELY.

5. COMMENT: I THINK BHUTTO DEFINITELY DOES NOT WANT
TO GET INVOLVED IN DETAILS OF CYPRUS MATTERS, BUT
PROBABLY FELT FLATTERED THAT LEADERS WOULD WELCOME HIS
GOOD OFFICES. I GAVE HIM SUCH INFORMATION AS AVAILABLE
ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS THERE BUT SAID I WAS OBVIOUSLY
MANY HOURS BEHIND DEVELOPMENTS. I SAID I WAS CERTAIN
THAT YOU AND OTHERS WOULD APPRECIATE HIS CONFIDENCE WITH
US ON THIS MATTER AND HIS GENERAL CONCERN. I THINK BHUTTO
FIRST AND FOREMOST WANTED TO CHECK WITH US TO MAKE QUITE
CERTAIN THAT HIS WAS IN NO CONFLICT WITH OUR OWN EFFORTS RE CY-
PRUS SITUATION. HE SAID HE REALIZED THAT HE
COULD NOT MATERIALLY EFFECT THE SITUATION, UNLESS SOME
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OUTSIDE HAND COULD PERFORM A PUBLIC RELATIONS ROLE IN GETTING
OPPOSING FACTIONS TO MEET UNDER OTHER AUSPICES, AND HE
HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD BE
USEFUL OR NOT.

6. I REALIZE THAT EVERYONE CONCERNED WITH THIS ISSUE
IS BUSY INDEED. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BUT UNFORTUNATE I
THINK IF WE GAVE NO REPLY TO BHUTTO WHICH DOES NOT TAKE

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NOTE OF HIS CONCERN AND HIS DESIRE TO SHARE WITH US
THE EXCHANGES REPORTED ABOVE. I WOULD
LIKE TO BE ABLE TO TELL HIM HOW MUCH YOU APPRECIATED HIS
WILLINGNESS TO HELP AS HE CAN.
BYROADE

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